

Baynard Stadium's south bleachers closed as possible safety hazard

DNREC exploring temporary seating options

WILMINGTON – The south bleachers at Wilmington's Baynard Stadium have been condemned and closed effective immediately after the bleachers were found to be at the end of their useful lifespan and labeled a potential public safety hazard by a structural engineering assessment. Bleachers on the north and south sides of the stadium, which is managed by DNREC's Division of Parks & Recreation, were evaluated five years ago and repaired according to professional structural engineering recommendations, with a reevaluation to be done this year for structural soundness.

Century Engineering, which conducted the most recent evaluation, informed the Division of Parks & Recreation that the stadium's south bleachers could pose a public safety hazard in their current condition. The stadium's north bleachers continue to be used for spectating at sporting events and gatherings, but need to be modified to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act, according to Cindy Todd, DNREC construction project administrator.

Having closed the south bleachers until further notice, the Division of Parks & Recreation is now looking at possible options for temporary bleachers at Baynard Stadium while plans, designs and funding are secured over the few next years for renovation and upgrades.

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